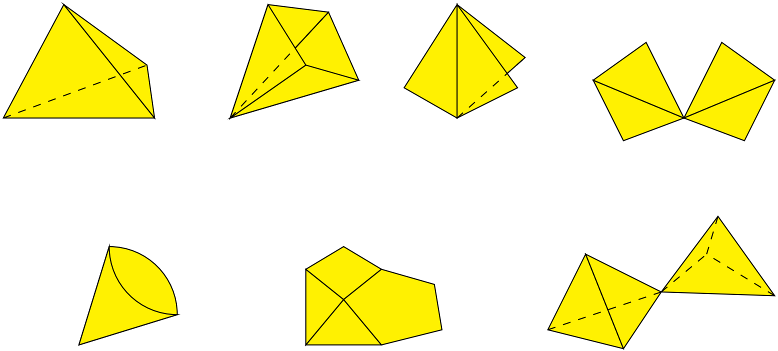
Simplicial surfaces in GAP

Markus Baumeister

??.08.2017

Motivation

Goal: simplicial surfaces (and generalisations) in GAP



$\rightsquigarrow$ examples of **polygonal complexes**

No embedding

We do not work with embeddings (mostly)

- is very hard to compute
- if often unknown for an abstractly constructed surface
- is different from *intrinsic structure*

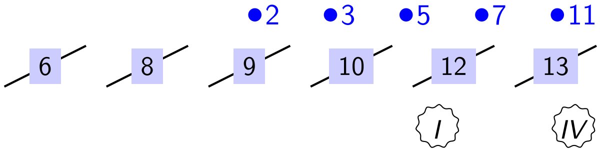
$\Rightarrow$ lengths and angles are not important

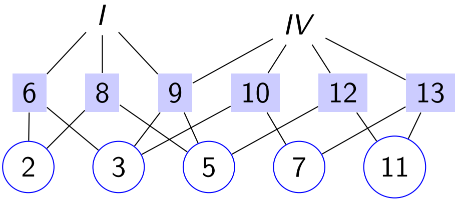
$\rightsquigarrow$ incidence structure is intrinsic

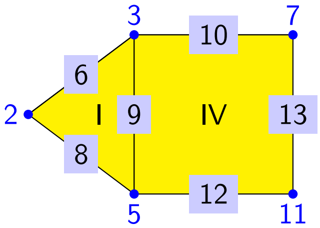
Incidence structure of a polygonal complex

A **polygonal complex** consists of

- set of vertices $\mathcal{V}$
- set of edges $\mathcal{E}$
- set of faces $\mathcal{F}$
- transitive relation $\subseteq \left(\mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{E}\right) \uplus \left(\mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{F}\right) \uplus \left(\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{F}\right)$



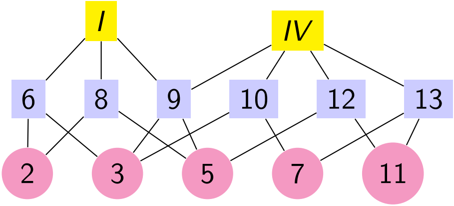




1. Every face is a polygon
2. Every vertex lies in an edge and every edge lies in a face

Isomorphism testing

Incidence geometry allows "easy" isomorphism testing. Incidence structure can be interpreted as a coloured graph:



$\rightsquigarrow$ reduce to graph isomorphism problem

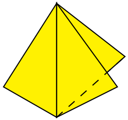
Solved by NautyTracesInterface (by Gutsche, Niemeyer, Schweitzer)

General properties

Some properties can be computed for all polygonal complexes:

- Connectivity
- Euler–Characteristic

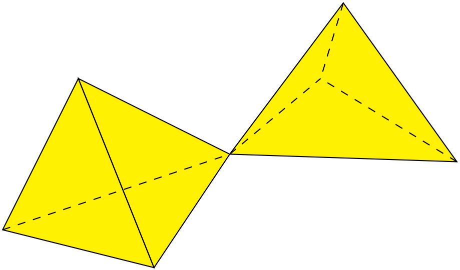
Orientability is **not** one of them. Counterexample:



$\Rightarrow$ every edge lies in at most two faces (for well–definedness)
$\rightsquigarrow$ **ramified polygonal surfaces**

Why ramified?

Typical example of ramified polygonal surface:



$\Rightarrow$ It is not a surface – there is a *ramification* at the central vertex
A **polygonal surface** does not have these ramifications.

Embedding question

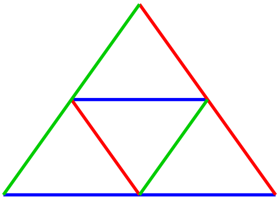
Given: A polygonal complex

- Can it be embedded?
- In how many ways?

Simplifications:

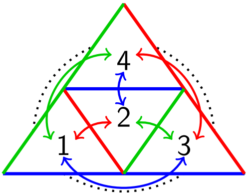
1. Only polygonal surfaces (surface that is build from polygons)
2. All polygons are triangles (**simplicial surfaces**)
3. All triangles are isometric

$\rightsquigarrow$ Edge–colouring encodes different lengths



Colouring as permutation

Consider tetrahedron with edge colouring

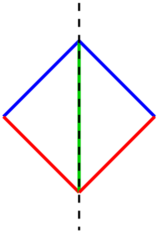


simplicial surface $\Rightarrow$ at most two faces at each edge

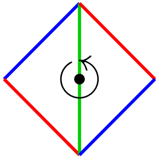
- $\rightsquigarrow$ every edge defines transposition of incident faces
- $\rightsquigarrow$ every colour class defines permutation of the faces
  - (1,2)(3,4) , (1,3)(2,4) , (1,4)(2,3)
- $\rightsquigarrow$ group theoretic considerations
  - The connected components of the surface correspond to the orbits of $\langle \sigma_a, \sigma_b, \sigma_c \rangle$ on the faces

How do faces fit together?

Consider a face of the surface and a neighbouring face
The neighbour can be coloured in two ways:



mirror (m)

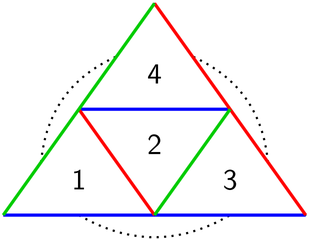


rotation (r)

This gives an **mr–assignment** for the edges.
Permutations and mr–assignment uniquely determine the surface.

Constructing surfaces from groups

A general mr–assignment leads to complicated surfaces.
Simplification: edges of same colour have the same type
Example



has an rrr–structure
The easiest structure is an mmm–structure.

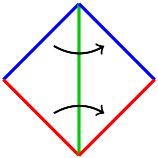
Covering

We want to characterize surfaces where all edges are mirrors.

Lemma

A simplicial surface has an mmm–structure iff it covers a single triangle, i. e. there is an incidence–preserving map to the simplicial surface consisting of exactly one face.

Consider



- Covering pulls back a colouring of the triangle.
- Colouring defines a map to the triangle.

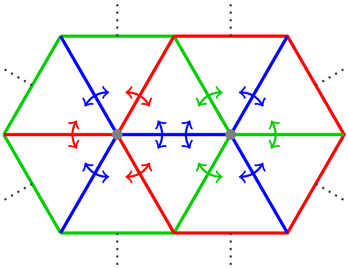
Construction from permutations

Start with three involutions σ_a, σ_b, σ_c (like generators of a finite group)

Lemma

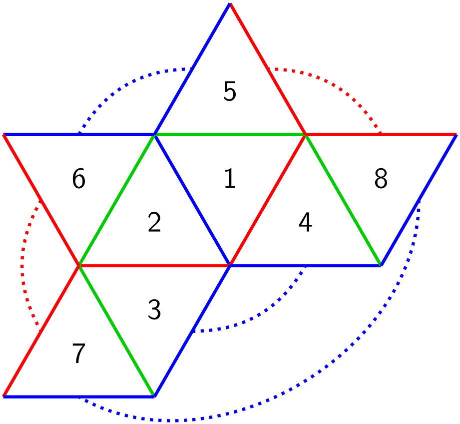
There exists a coloured surface with the given involutions where all edges are mirror edges.

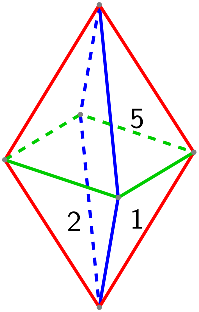
- The faces are the points moved by the involutions
- The edges are the cycles of the involutions
- The vertices are the orbits of $\langle \sigma_a, \sigma_b \rangle$ on the faces (for all pairs)



Construction example

$\sigma_a = (1,2)(3,4)(5,6)(7,8)$
$\sigma_b = (1,4)(2,3)(5,8)(6,7)$
$\sigma_c = (1,5)(2,6)(3,7)(4,8)$





What kind of folding?

There are many different kinds of folding (e. g. Origami) Here:

- Folding of surface in $\mathbb{R}^3$
- Possible folding edges are fixed
- Folding should be rigid (no curvature)

Goal: Classify possible folding patterns (given a net)

Why are embeddings hard?

Ideally, we would like to have embeddings.

But we want to define folding independently from an embedding, since:

- They are very hard to compute (even for small examples)
- We can only show foldability for specific small examples
  - Usually using regularity (like crystallographic symmetry)
  - No general method
- It is very hard to define iterated folding in an embedding

Is there an alternative?

Central idea:

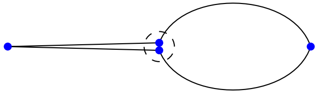
- Don't model folding process (needs embedding)
- Describe starting and final folding state
  - Only consider changes in the topology (like identification of faces)
  - allows abstraction from embedding

$\rightsquigarrow$ Incidence geometry (polygonal complex/surface)

- Captures some folding restrictions (rigidity of tetrahedron)
- Still needs a lot of refinement

Important properties of folding

- The class of surfaces is not closed under folding
- Folding can be undone by *unfolding*
- Identification of two faces might force identification of two other faces
  - Can apply to arbitrary many faces
  - The forced identification is not unique
  - $\Rightarrow$ Identify only two faces at a time



How to define abstract folding?

We need to define two structures:

1. A folding state
    - Based on polygonal complexes
    - Describe "is folded together" by an equivalence relation
    - Describe order of faces in folding state
2. The folding steps
    - Explain "unordered folding" (e. g. covering)
    - Modify to include face order relations